

Report by Jaushieh Joseph Wu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China (Taiwan), at the Foreign and National Defense Committee of the Legislative Yuan on October 7, 2019

Honorable Chairperson, Members of the Legislative Yuan, ladies and gentlemen:
Good morning!

I'm pleased to be here today at the invitation of the Foreign and National Defense Committee to present a briefing on Taiwan's diplomatic work. The following report covers the progress the government has made in major diplomatic endeavors over the past three-plus years, the external changes and challenges we face, the efforts the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has devoted to promoting steadfast diplomacy, the achievements we have made since the previous Legislative Yuan session, as well as key future tasks. Your feedback and suggestions will be greatly appreciated.

1. Despite China's intensifying suppression, Taiwan has achieved numerous important breakthroughs and outcomes through steadfast diplomacy

Over the past three-plus years, the government has spared no effort in promoting steadfast diplomacy, while striving to maintain the status quo across the Taiwan Strait. We have neither engaged in provocations nor sought to exacerbate existing circumstances. However, China has stepped up its suppression of Taiwan in the international arena, attempting to destroy our sovereignty and limit our presence. Despite persistent efforts by our government to stem the tide, China has lured away some of our diplomatic allies, undermining stability across the Taiwan Strait.

Nevertheless, under the concerted efforts of our people and government, numerous

important breakthroughs and outcomes have been achieved as a result of steadfast diplomacy. In particular, it is gratifying to note that our relations with the United States, Japan, and other like-minded countries in Europe and elsewhere have advanced significantly. Major accomplishments include the following:

- 1.1. Taiwan-US ties at their best in 40 years:** This year, Taiwan and the United States are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act. High-ranking officials from the US executive branch have publicly reaffirmed the Taiwan Relations Act and Six Assurances on numerous occasions. The US Congress has passed numerous bills and resolutions in support of Taiwan. And the Trump administration has incorporated Taiwan into the framework of the US Indo-Pacific Strategy.
- 1.2. Greater courtesy extended to President Tsai during US stopovers:** The United States approved visits by President Tsai Ing-wen to government offices and lifted media restrictions during her transit stops in the country. She was the first President of Taiwan to publicly meet with Permanent Representatives to the UN and other representatives of our diplomatic allies at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York.
- 1.3. Renaming of institutions dealing with US and Japan affairs:** The Coordination Council for North American Affairs was renamed the Taiwan Council for US Affairs, marking the first time that *Taiwan* and *US* have been included in the name of the organization. Japan's Interchange Association was renamed the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association, while Taiwan's Association of East Asian Relations was renamed the Taiwan-Japan Relations Association, incorporating *Taiwan* and *Japan* in the new designations for the respective institutions.

- 1.4. Concrete US government assistance for Taiwan's defense capabilities:** The US Department of State approved marketing licenses for US manufacturers to assist in the development of our indigenous submarines. The Trump administration has announced five arms sales to Taiwan, including 66 F-16V fighter jets, among other advanced equipment. These arms sales total 12 billion US dollars, underlining the normalization of US arms sales to Taiwan.
- 1.5. US passes the Taiwan Travel Act:** The Taiwan Travel Act encourages mutual visits between Taiwan and the United States by officials at all levels, so as to pave the way for closer and more robust interactions between the two countries.
- 1.6. New milestones and highlights in relations with Europe:** Taiwan and the European Union held their first Human Rights Consultations. Taiwan and Poland signed an agreement on legal cooperation in criminal matters. Furthermore, 155 Members of the European Parliament issued a joint statement on promoting peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. I myself was invited to deliver a public speech at the Copenhagen Democracy Summit in Denmark.
- 1.7. Stronger global support for Taiwan's international participation:** Taiwan's efforts to participate in international organizations and activities, such as the World Health Assembly (WHA), United Nations, and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), have gained stronger support from numerous and important like-minded countries, despite relentless interference from China.
- 1.8. Initial success of the New Southbound Policy:** Taiwan has achieved significant growth in economic and trade relations, personnel exchanges, and resource sharing with New Southbound Policy partner countries.
- 1.9. Facilitation of overseas travel:** Taiwan was the 12th country to join the US Global Entry program, and the eighth non-EU nation to be granted automated immigration clearance by Italy. Taiwan has also signed reciprocal driver's

license agreements with 33 US states and all Canadian provinces.

2. Taiwan faces a complex external environment and formidable challenges.

The current international political and economic landscape is fraught with uncertainty. Peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region are being challenged. Our Ministry is closely monitoring key trends and formulating appropriate responses accordingly. Developments we are paying close attention to include the following:

2.1. Since Xi Jinping announced his five-point proposal, China has expanded and strengthened its suppression of Taiwan.

After Chinese leader Xi Jinping announced his five-point proposal regarding Taiwan, the Beijing authorities have sought to impose the “one country, two systems” model on Taiwan in an attempt to destroy Taiwan’s democracy. Beijing has stepped up its rhetorical assault and military intimidation against Taiwan, repeatedly declaring that it refuses to rule out the use of force, dispatching military aircraft and vessels to circle Taiwan, and conducting military exercises that clearly target Taiwan in areas around the Taiwan Strait. In addition, China recently lured away our diplomatic allies Solomon Islands and Kiribati in a bid to influence the outcome of our upcoming presidential and legislative elections, and compel Taiwan to fall in line.

2.2. International concern over the unabated protest movement in Hong Kong

The movement in Hong Kong protesting an amendment to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation has continued unabated since it began in June this year, eliciting a high level of international concern. The executive and legislative branches of advanced democracies including the United States, Japan, European countries,

Canada, Australia, and New Zealand have publicly expressed concern. Prominent international media have kept track of developments and continued to publish related reports and commentaries. This has given the international community a better understanding of Taiwan's staunch refusal to accept the "one country, two systems" model.

2.3. The US-China and Japan-Korea trade conflicts could have consequences for the global economy and trade, Taiwan-US-China relations, and the overall situation in the Asia-Pacific.

The US-China trade conflict involves core interests of both countries, and is likely to continue. The Japan-Korea dispute has escalated recently; it is no longer confined to trade but has extended to military and intelligence cooperation, which could cause continued tension between the two sides. These developments are related to Taiwan's economy, trade, and security.

2.4. Developments in the Middle East could impact security in the Taiwan Strait and Taiwan's economy.

Variables remain in the situation in the Middle East. In recent months, Iran has shot down a US drone and seized several foreign oil tankers in the Persian Gulf. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani also announced the third step toward reducing its commitments to the Iran nuclear agreement. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabian oil refineries were attacked. Consequently, tension has risen in the Middle East, which could have repercussions for security in the Taiwan Strait and Taiwan's economy.

3. Key steadfast diplomacy outcomes since previous Legislative Yuan session

3.1. Cordial and frequent high-level mutual visits with diplomatic allies

In March this year, President Tsai Ing-wen led a delegation to Palau, Nauru,

and the Marshall Islands on her Oceans of Democracy trip. Then in July, she undertook the Journey of Freedom, Democracy and Sustainability, which included visits to Haiti, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Saint Lucia. During these state visits, much was achieved in bolstering diplomatic partnerships and bilateral cooperation. Following President Tsai's visit, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines established an Embassy in Taiwan, its first in Asia.

On October 10, Vice President Chen Chien-jen led a delegation to the Holy See to attend the canonization ceremony for Cardinal John Henry Newman and four other Blessed, enhancing diplomatic ties between Taiwan and the Holy See.

In April this year, I served as the President's special envoy to the 51st birthday celebrations of King Mswati III of Eswatini. In August, I traveled to Tuvalu for the Pacific Islands Forum. And later that month, I attended the state funeral of Palau's former President Thomas Remengesau, Sr. The latter two trips have helped build closer cooperative ties with diplomatic allies in the Pacific.

In the meantime, high-level officials from diplomatic allies have also visited Taiwan, including President Jimmy Morales of Guatemala, Prime Minister Ralph E. Gonsalves of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Prime Minister Timothy Harris of Saint Christopher and Nevis. President Tommy Remengesau, Jr. of Palau and President Lionel Aingimea of Nauru made stopovers in Taiwan on their return home from attending the UN General Assembly at the end of September. This constituted a concrete action on their part to show the importance they attach to bilateral relations with Taiwan. Prime Minister Allen

Chastanet of Saint Lucia and other heads or deputy heads of state of diplomatic allies will be visiting Taiwan to attend our National Day celebrations, again highlighting our solid bonds with these countries.

3.2. Taiwan-US relations are advancing steadily.

Taiwan-US relations are stable and robust, and continue to advance in a steady manner, with cooperation expanding to a broader spectrum of areas. In addition to the breakthroughs I mentioned earlier, we have made several other important achievements.

During the Journey of Freedom, Democracy and Sustainability in July, President Tsai made the longest-ever transit stops in the United States (combined four days and four nights) by a Taiwanese head of state.

The US Department of Defense, in its recently published *Indo-Pacific Strategy Report*, listed Taiwan among nations with which the US has taken steps to expand partnerships.

The Trump administration has so far announced five arms sales to Taiwan, totaling 12 billion US dollars.

Meanwhile, the US Senate and House of Representatives each adopted a resolution reaffirming the US commitment to Taiwan and to the implementation of the Taiwan Relations Act. The House of Representatives passed the Taiwan Assurance Act, while the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations approved the Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative Act of 2019 (also referred to as the TAIPEI Act). These acts and resolutions represent a clear

show of support for Taiwan.

Taiwan and the United States jointly held six workshops under the Global Cooperation and Training Framework, with topics including the fight against corruption in public and private sectors, women's economic empowerment, management of drug-resistant tuberculosis, cybersecurity, media literacy, and revitalization of Austronesian languages. Japan and Sweden cosponsored some of the events, while our diplomatic allies proactively participated in them.

In March, Taiwan and the United States held A Civil Society Dialogue on Securing Religious Freedom in the Indo-Pacific Region. And in late September, official Taiwanese representatives were invited to attend an event at UN headquarters entitled Global Call to Protect Religious Freedom, which was chaired by President Donald Trump.

3.3. New Southbound Policy has achieved initial success.

We have steadily deepened diverse exchanges with New Southbound Policy partner countries and achieved initial success.

With regard to tourism and personnel exchanges, our Ministry has introduced, in different stages, several visa facilitation measures under the New Southbound Policy, leading to growth in the number of tourists from partner countries. In the first six months of this year, citizens from these countries made approximately 1.36 million visits to Taiwan, an increase of 5.4 percent compared to the same period of the previous year. Our Ministry has also forged ahead with talent exchange and incubation programs. These include the Young Agricultural Ambassadors New Southbound Policy Exchange Program,

International Youth Ambassadors Exchange Program, and Taiwan Fellowships and Scholarships Program.

In resource sharing, our Ministry remains committed to the One Country, One Center initiative, under which Taiwanese medical centers are engaging in healthcare cooperation and development in seven partner countries this year, including India and Indonesia. As for agricultural exchanges, Taiwan signed an agreement in March to establish an agricultural demonstration zone in Indonesia and another in April to promote a rice seed and fruit tree seedling production demonstration center in Vietnam.

The third edition of the Yushan Forum will be held in Taipei on October 8 and 9, focusing on the theme “Deepening Progressive Partnerships in Asia.” The event, held in the spirit that “Taiwan helps Asia, and Asia helps Taiwan,” will further build momentum for cooperation between governments and private sectors in the region.

3.4. Taiwan-Japan relations continue to grow.

Relations between Taiwan and Japan continue to grow in a stable fashion. Japan remains committed to supporting Taiwan’s international participation. Its Foreign Minister used Twitter to issue his first-ever statement of support for Taiwan’s participation in the WHA. In March and May this year, the Japan-R.O.C. Diet Members’ Consultative Council issued resolutions endorsing Taiwan’s participation in the World Health Organization (WHO) and WHA.

New milestones were set in people-to-people exchanges between our countries. The bilateral working holiday program celebrated its 10th anniversary, and

Japan announced that it would increase the visa quota for Taiwanese traveling to Japan under this program from 5,000 to 10,000 per year.

Three rounds of negotiations were held during the eighth meeting of the Taiwan-Japan Fisheries Committee this year. An agreement was reached to jointly ensure safe operations at sea based on the spirit of the Taiwan-Japan Fisheries Agreement.

3.5. Taiwan-EU cooperation is being further enhanced based on shared values.

Taiwan continues to work with the EU and like-minded European nations to safeguard core values of democracy, human rights, and freedom, and further expand cooperation.

In March, the European Commission and the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy issued a report entitled *EU-China: A Strategic Outlook*, confirming the EU's commitment to continuing to develop relations with Taiwan and to supporting the shared values underpinning the EU's system of governance.

Taiwan and the EU held their second annual Human Rights Consultations in mid-May, deepening value-based relations. After more than three years of efforts by Taiwan, the European Commission in late June lifted the yellow card placed on Taiwan for illegal, underreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, recognizing our efforts to clamp down on such illicit activities and foster sustainable fishing.

In late June, I delivered a speech at the 2019 Copenhagen Democracy Summit

at the invitation of Anders Fogh Rasmussen, former Prime Minister of Denmark and former Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). In my speech, I emphasized that Taiwan will continue to staunchly promote democracy and that democracy is the better path forward for the development of humanity.

Since March this year, we have signed nine agreements, MOUs, joint statements and joint declarations with European countries, including an MOU on cooperation and mutual administrative assistance to combat customs fraud with the United Kingdom and an agreement on legal cooperation in criminal matters with Poland.

Like-minded European countries have proactively supported Taiwan's participation in the WHA. The executive branches of the EU, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany publicly voiced support for Taiwan. Moreover, Taiwan friendship groups from the European Parliament and the UK, French and German parliaments wrote a joint letter to the WHO Director-General endorsing Taiwan's participation.

3.6. Momentum for greater international participation continues to build.

This year, 14 diplomatic allies sent letters or raised proposals calling for Taiwan's participation in the WHA. A total of 15 allies and eight other like-minded countries spoke up for Taiwan at the WHA plenary. The parliaments of 34 countries and regions adopted resolutions or used other methods to show support for Taiwan. A short film produced by our Ministry to promote our WHA bid, *An Island Doctor on Call*, was viewed more than 10 million times. Our overseas diplomatic missions, together with local political figures and a wide

range of other individuals, organized Walk with Taiwan activities in Europe, North America, Latin America, the Asia-Pacific, West Asia, and Africa.

Since March this year, Taiwan has attended 10 APEC meetings for senior or higher-level officials. We have also hosted in Taiwan, or jointly organized with fellow APEC Members in other countries, 22 meetings and activities. During the First Senior Officials' Meeting in March this year, Taiwan, Korea, and Australia jointly established the Digital Innovation Sub-fund to encourage digital innovation and promote related capacity building projects.

This year, we campaigned for participation in the UN under the theme “Taiwan, a Vital Global Partner in the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals,” and released a short film entitled *A True Friend*. Through these efforts, we showed the international community our people’s aspiration to participate in the UN system. Twelve diplomatic allies sent letters to UN Secretary-General António Guterres, urging him to allow Taiwan to participate in an appropriate manner. Eleven allies asserted their support for Taiwan at the UN General Debate. Our diplomatic mission in New York held activities on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, drawing attention to Taiwan’s efforts and accomplishments in implementing the SDGs.

Adhering to the principles of professionalism and pragmatism, and seeking to play a constructive role, our Ministry has campaigned to take part in ICAO. Thirteen diplomatic allies and numerous friendly countries sent letters or employed other means to convey support for our efforts. Six nations spoke up in favor of Taiwan during the ICAO Assembly. In addition, the communiqué

issued by the G7 Foreign Ministers this year for the first time included content in favor of Taiwan, affirming that Taiwan's ICAO bid is appropriate and reasonable. This set a helpful example in encouraging more countries to endorse Taiwan's bid.

The Mutual Evaluation Reports passed by the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering at its annual meeting this year listed Taiwan in the top category of its anti-money laundering index, in recognition of our efforts. We also joined the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), which will help protect the rights and interests of our fishermen.

3.7. Taking proactive steps to make our voice heard internationally

Our Ministry continues to employ a variety of approaches to speak up and let the world hear Taiwan's voice. Since March this year, I have given interviews to the *New York Times* and other prominent electronic and print media from countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, Spain, Sweden, and Poland as well as our diplomatic allies. A total of 71 news reports were issued in relation to these interviews.

Since the launch of our official Facebook page in July 2017, it has attracted over 90,000 followers. We also opened an official Twitter account in April 2018. So far, we have sent more than 2,000 tweets, reaching more than 43.92 million users. And we have gained nearly 30,000 followers for our Instagram account, which was created in July 2018.

To examine the challenges and achievements in diplomatic work from the perspective of female colleagues, our Ministry produced a short film called *My*

MOFA Mom, which has been viewed more than 2.8 million times.

4. Further advancing steadfast diplomacy

Today, we face a complex international landscape, as well as serious challenges. We will continue to push ahead with key tasks under our steadfast diplomacy, as follows:

4.1. Consolidating ties with diplomatic allies

Our Ministry is making a concerted effort to consolidate relations with Taiwan's diplomatic allies. We are enhancing human and other resources at our Embassies and strengthening our intelligence gathering. We will continue to promote mutual visits by high-ranking officials and advance bilateral cooperation initiatives. We will also conduct joint endeavors with the United States and other key friendly countries. I want to reiterate here that Taiwan will not engage in pointless checkbook diplomacy in competition with China.

4.2. Deepening relations with like-minded countries and other nations with which Taiwan does not maintain diplomatic relations

We will make good use of the current international climate favorable to Taiwan, align with friendly forces worldwide, and continue to bolster substantive ties and expand the scope of cooperation with like-minded nations, such as the United States, Japan, European countries, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, in an effort to jointly counter traditional and nontraditional challenges and threats and advance regional peace and stability.

4.3. Implementing the New Southbound Policy

The government will build on the excellent foundation that already exists to further promote the New Southbound Policy and align with the US Indo-Pacific Strategy. We will focus on four pillars: economic and trade cooperation, human

resource exchanges, resource sharing, and regional connectivity. By exercising Taiwan's soft power and creating new mutually beneficial cooperation models, we will seek to contribute to regional prosperity and sustainable development.

4.4. Increasing international participation and making proactive contributions

Based on the principles of professionalism and pragmatism, and hoping to play a constructive role in the international community, we will use all available resources and capabilities to continue our bids to join more international organizations. In addition, we will deepen our involvement and safeguard our rights in organizations to which we already belong. Given that Taiwan's nongovernmental organizations are more than capable of participating in global affairs, our Ministry will continue to work with them in all domains, so as to increase our international presence through public-private coordination.

4.5. Endeavoring to join regional economic integration mechanisms and strengthening regional cooperation

Our government is fully committed to joining regional economic integration mechanisms. Our highest priority is to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). We will continue to seek the support of its 11 members, including Japan, through bilateral and multilateral channels. I personally preside over regular meetings of our Ministry's CPTPP task force to discuss strategies with senior colleagues from relevant Ministry departments and diplomatic missions.

4.6. Making our voice heard internationally

Our Ministry continues to employ diverse approaches to speak out and share with the rest of the world our efforts and achievements in contributing to the international community, so that the world can gain a better understanding of and extend greater support to Taiwan. In particular, we will make better use of

new media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube, to demonstrate the positive effects of public diplomacy.

4.7. Fulfilling international responsibilities

In addition to working closely with like-minded nations to counter challenges and threats, we will further implement the UN SDGs in order to fulfill our international responsibilities and make greater contributions to the global community. Taiwan will staunchly uphold the worldwide consensus on maintaining the status quo of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, and safeguard shared values and the rules-based international order.

4.8. Optimizing services for the public and facilitating greater travel convenience

Our Ministry will continue to improve services for the public and facilitate greater travel convenience. This year, Russia has moved to gradually incorporate Taiwan into its electronic visa program. In mid-June, Italy launched a trial expedited immigration service for our citizens at its international airports. And in September, Saudi Arabia included Taiwan among the first countries to be eligible for electronic tourism visas.

5. Conclusion

I would like to once again thank the Legislative Yuan and the distinguished Members of the Committee for your support and encouragement of our Ministry. We will fully promote tasks under our steadfast diplomacy. Any setbacks we suffer only serve to strengthen our resolve. We will show the world Taiwan's vitality, professionalism, resilience and determination. And we will show our citizens the fighting spirit, perseverance, and diligence of our Ministry. We very much look forward to your continued support and assistance. Thank you!